

**Highly Qualified Requirements for Special Education Teachers
Teaching Core Academic Subjects Exclusively to Students Assessed
Against Alternate Achievement Standards (ISTAR)**

Highly Qualified Requirements – Amendment

February 10, 2006

The IDEA 2004 provides that if a special education teacher teaches core academic subjects exclusively to students who are being assessed against alternate achievement standards (ISTAR), the teacher must meet the highly qualified requirements for elementary school teachers and, for instruction above the elementary level, have subject-matter knowledge appropriate to the level of instruction being provided.

Accordingly, special education teachers above the elementary level who teach core academic subjects exclusively to students assessed against alternate achievement standards (ISTAR) have the option of meeting the highly qualified requirements for elementary school teachers. Alternatively, these teachers can meet the highly qualified teacher requirements at the secondary level.

Note: Teachers who do not teach core academic subjects (e.g., some life skills classes) do not have to be highly qualified.